

# 2019–2020 Florida Citrus Production Guide: Interpreting PPE Statements on Pesticide Labels<sup>1</sup>

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*This document helps you understand the revised PPE statements now part of labels on pesticide products used on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses.*

## Background

Many Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) statements on pesticide labels have been changed as a result of the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides (WPS). These revised statements are more precise on the type of PPE that must be worn by pesticide handlers (mixers, loaders, and applicators). The terminology used to describe the required PPE is now more consistent from label to label. The tables accompanying this document list **LABEL STATEMENTS** used to describe the PPE required for use by mixers, loaders, and applicators.

The column headed **ACCEPTABLE PPE** describes the options the pesticide handler has when the label statement lists a specific item of PPE. The tables are grouped by subject, as follows:

**Table 1—Body Protection**

**Table 2—Hand Protection**

**Table 3—Eye Protection**

**Table 4—Foot Protection**

**Table 5—Respiratory Protection**

**Table 6—Head Protection**

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Use pesticides safely. Read and follow directions on the manufacturer's label.

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**Table 1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Statements (Body Protection)**

| <b>Label Statement</b>  | <b>Acceptable PPE</b>   |
|---|---|
| Long-sleeved shirt and long pants   | Long-sleeved shirt and long pants, or   |
|   | Woven or nonwoven coverall, or  |
|   | Plastic- or other barrier-coated coverall, or   |
|   | Rubber or plastic suit  |
| Coverall worn over short-sleeved shirt and short pants                                | Coverall worn over short-sleeved shirt and short pants, or  |
|   | Coverall worn over long-sleeved shirt and long pants, or  |
|   | Coverall worn over another coverall, or   |
|   | Plastic- or other barrier-coated coverall, or   |
|   | Rubber or plastic suit  |
| Coverall worn over long-sleeved shirt and long pants                                  | Coverall worn over long-sleeved shirt and long pants, or  |
|   | Coverall worn over another coverall, or   |
|   | Plastic- or other barrier-coated coverall, or   |
|   | Rubber or plastic suit  |
| Chemical-resistant apron worn over coverall or over long-sleeved shirt and long pants | Chemical-resistant apron worn over coverall or long-sleeved shirt and long pants, or barrier-coated coverall, or suit |
|   | Plastic or other barrier-coated coverall, or  |
|   | Rubber or plastic   |
| Chemical-resistant protective suit  | Plastic- or other barrier-coated coverall, or   |
|   | Rubber or plastic suit  |
| Waterproof suit or liquid-proof suit  | Plastic- or other barrier-coated coverall, or   |
|   | Rubber or plastic suit  |

**Table 2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Statements (Hand Protection)**

| <b>Label Statement</b>                             | <b>Acceptable PPE</b>  |
|--|--|
| Waterproof gloves                                  | Any rubber or plastic gloves sturdy enough to remain intact throughout the task being performed  |
| Chemical-resistant gloves                          | Barrier-laminate gloves, or  |
|  | Other gloves that glove selection charts or guidance documents indicate are chemical-resistant to the pesticide for the period of time required to perform the task  |
| Chemical-resistant gloves such as butyl or nitrile | Butyl gloves, or   |
|  | Nitrile gloves, or   |
|  | Other gloves that glove selection, charts or guidance documents indicate are chemical-resistant to the pesticide for the period of time required to perform the task |

**Table 3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Statements (Eye Protection)**

| <b>Label Statement</b> | <b>Acceptable PPE</b>       |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Protective eyewear     | Shielded safety glasses, or |
|                        | Face shield, or             |
|                        | Goggles, or                 |
|                        | Full-face respirator        |
| Goggles                | Goggles, or                 |
|                        | Full-face respirator        |

**Table 4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Statements (Foot Protection)**

| <b>Label Statement</b>   | <b>Acceptable PPE</b>                       |
|--------------------------|---|
| Shoes                    | Leather, canvas, or fabric shoes, or        |
|                          | Chemical-resistant shoes, or                |
|                          | Chemical-resistant boots, or                |
|                          | Chemical-resistant shoe coverings (booties) |
| Chemical-resistant boots | Chemical-resistant boots                    |

**Table 5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Statements (Respiratory Protection)**

| <b>Label Statement</b>  | <b>Acceptable PPE</b>  |
|---|--|
| Cartridge respirator  | Respirator with organic vapor-removing cartridge and pesticide prefilter, or |
|   | Respirator with canister approved for pesticides, or                         |
|   | Air-supplying respirator   |
| Air-supplying respirator or self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) | Air-supplying respirator, or   |
|   | Self-contained breathing   |
| Dust/mist filtering respirator  | Dust/mist filtering respirator, or   |
|   | Respirator with dust/mist filtering cartridge, or                            |
|   | Respirator with organic vapor-removing cartridge and pesticide prefilter, or |
|   | Air-supplying respirator   |
| Canister respirator (gas mask)  | Respirator with canister approved for pesticides, or                         |
|   | Air-supplying respirator   |

**Table 6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Statements (Head Protection)**

| <b>Label Statement</b>                      | <b>Acceptable PPE</b>                                |
|---|--|
| Chemical-resistant hood or wide-brimmed hat | Rubber or plastic-coated safari-style hat, or        |
|   | Rubber or plastic-coated firefighter-style hat or    |
|   | Plastic- or other barrier-coated hood, or            |
|   | Rubber or plastic hood, or                           |
|   | Full hood or helmet that is part of some respirators |